

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 EB-07 /087 W

----- 077929

R 150815Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6438

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR VN CH

SUBJECT: HANOI-PEKING DIFFERENCES

1. SUMMARY: DIFFERING TREATMENT OF REPORTING ON THE DRVN ECONOMIC DELEGATION VISIT TO PEKING BY CHINESE (NCNA) AND VIETNAM (VNA) NEWS AGENCIES APPEARS TO POINT DIRECTLY TO DIFFERENCES IN POLICIES AND INTERESTS BETWEEN HANOI AND PEKING. HANOI'S PRIME CONCERN APPEARS TO BE INCREASED AND LONG-TERM ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM PEKING WHILE PEKING APPEARS TO BE MOST RELUCTANT TO MAKE SUCH COMMITMENTS, AT LEAST PUBLICLY, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE DELEGATION'S NEXT STOP IS MOSCOW. OVERSHADOWING THE ENTIRE VISIT IS PEKING'S PREPARATIONS FOR TODAY'S ARRIVAL OF THE CAMBODIAN LEADERS. END SUMMARY

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2. DISCREPANCIES IN VNA AND NCNA REPORTING OF THE

CURRENT PEKING VISIT BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ECONOMIC DELEGATION HEADED BY POLITBURO MEMBER LE THANH NGHI REFLECT CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE IN POLICIES AND INTERESTS BETWEEN HANOI AND PEKING. BOTH VNA AND NCNA CARRIED EXCERPTS OF THE TOASTS AT THE BANQUET HOSTED BY PRC VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN. IN NCNA'S VERSION LI HSIEN-NIEN APPEARS TO IGNORE THE US, EXCEPT FOR HIS REFERENCE TO THE VIETNAMESE STRUGGLES AGAINST "IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM, AND HEGEMONISM." THIS PHRASE WAS LEFT OUT BY VNA, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF SOVIET SENSITIVITIES ON THE HEGEMONY ISSUE, BUT VNA DID QUOTE LI AS CONDEMNING "US IMPERIALISTS." VNA ALSO HAD LI USING STANDARD PRC PHRASEOLOGY OF THE HANOI-PEKING RELATIONSHIP AS BEING LIKE THE LIPS AND TEETH, A PHRASE WHICH DID NOT APPEAR IN THE NCNA VERSION.

3. THE NCNA VERSION OF THE TOASTS WAS CONCENTRATED ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES INCLUDING THE CAMBODIAN VICTORY AND APPEARED IN PLACES AN ATTEMPT TO CONDEMN THE SOVIETS WITHOUT MENTIONING THEM DIRECTLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, VNA EMPHASIZED STRICTLY BILATERAL MATTERS, PARTICULARLY THEIR REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, NOT ONLY FOR THE PRESENT BUT FOR THE NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN. VNA QUOTES LE THANH NGHI AS STATING FLATLY THAT HIS TALKS HAD CENTERED ON "CHINA'S AID TO VIETNAM FOR 1976 AND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF LONG-TERM ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES FROM 1976 TO 1980." ACCORDING TO VNA, LE CONCLUDED BY INDICATING THAT "AN INCREASE IN THE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OF THE FRATERNAL CHINESE PEOPLE" WILL BE "OF GREAT IMPORTANCE." NCNA MENTIONS NONE OF THIS, AN INDICATION THAT THE PRC IS PROBABLY NOT READY TO BE TIED TO LONG-TERM INCREASED ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM, ESPECIALLY PRIOR TO KNOWING WHAT RECEPTION THE DELEGATION WILL RECEIVE WHEN IT MOVES ON TO MOSCOW.

4. ALSO OF INTEREST IS THE ABSENCE OF BOTH PEKING'S AMBASSADOR TO HANOI, FU HAO, AND HANOI'S AMBASSADOR TO PEKING, BOTH AT THE MEETINGS AND AT THE AIRPORTS. EACH TIME THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THEIR CHARGES. FU HAO ALSO WAS NOT PRESENT IN HANOI ON AUGUST 1 (ARMY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DAY) BUT, IF NOT IN HANOI, HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE FOR GREETING THE LE DELEGATION ON ARRIVAL IN PEKING.

5. ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN STANDARD PRACTICE FOR DRVN DELEGATIONS SEEKING AID TO VISIT BOTH MOSCOW AND PEKING ON THE SAME TRIP, WE DOUBT WHETHER THE CHINESE APPROVE OF THIS METHOD AND THEY HAVE PROBABLY ALSO BEEN PUT OFF BY THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION'S APPARENT STRONG APPEAL

FOR INCREASED AND LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE. PRESUMABLY,  
THE CHINESE WOULD PREFER KNOWING JUST WHAT THE SOVIETS  
ARE PREPARED TO DONATE BEFORE BEING PRESSURED INTO ANY  
COMMITMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION'S  
VISIT TO PEKING IS ALREADY BEING OVERSHADOWED BY TODAY'S  
ARRIVAL OF KHIEU SAMPHAN AND IENG SARY, WHO HAVE HAD A  
WELCOMING PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL BEFITTING A CHIEF OF  
STATE.  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, POLICIES, VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975HONGK09446  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750282-0865  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750849/aaaabqzi.tel  
**Line Count:** 124  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HANOI-PEKING DIFFERENCES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, VN, CH, (LE THANH NGHI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006